

To the right Honourable,  
 Our right vvorthy and grave Senatours, the Lord  
 Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the City of Lon-  
 don in Common Council assembled,

The most humble Petition and Address of divers young men, on the behalf of themselves and  
 the APPRENTICES in and about this honourable City,

*Most humbly sheweth,*



**I**T hath pleased the good and onely wise G O D for our and the Nations crying sins to manifest his displeasure for many years to-  
 gether against these our flourishing, now sadly divided, distracted, and almost ruined Nations: and yet blessed be God, this Honoura-  
 ble City hitherto hath been no proportionable sharer in the calamities which our Brethren in other parts of these now miserable Na-  
 tions have suffered, which are now aggravated by our divisions, and such a general decay of trading, as doth exceed the worst of for-  
 mer times; all which we look upon, as a most sad preface of some part and dismal judgment very near at hand, if not our sudden ruin:  
 together with the destruction and utter dissolution both of Church and State, which will inevitably ensue as a just reward upon  
 our multipl'd provocations, under the most signal manifestations of Gods most gracious presence & the most engaging mercies  
 that ever people did enjoy / unless it please our most gracious G O D whose name hath been exceedingly dishonoured by the violation of many sacred  
 and solemn Oaths) amongst us to work our deliverance out of this contexture of dangerous mischiefs, into which we have already wound our selves:  
 or which as the inundations of mighty waters may suddenly break in upon us: and being sadly sensible of the calamities, under which the three Nations  
 groan for want of a well ordered and established Government. We being members in the same political body cannot but sympathize with the rest of  
 our Brethren: and forasmuch as your endeavours may contribute very much thereto, and the well or ill management of your Talents, in the discharge  
 of your Trusts may now make these Nations happy or else leave them irrecoverably miserable. We hold our selves obliged in conscience to G O D and  
 our Countrey, both by the Lawes of G O D and the Land, in the behalfe of our selves, and all good and peaceable people in the Land, and the many thou-  
 sands that know not their right hand from their left: and in the behalfe of the Children unborn who in time to come, may have cause to blesse or  
 curse the day of their birth for your sakes, do make this humble Adresse to you, as the onely means under G O D now left us to redresse these growing mis-  
 chiefs which make us and the three Nations in these times of our great trouble cry unto you (as those of *Mac. dons* did in the Apostles Vision) *Come  
 and help us.* And we beseech you, our most Grave and Worthy Senatours, as you tender the welfare of these bleeding Nations, to stand in the wide gap of  
 our breaches, with your prayers, improving your Councils, and every Talent, (which God hath reposed in you) for the honour of God, and the peace of  
 his Church by a reall reformation, and we question not but our most gracious G O D will then break through the thick Clouds of these black and dark  
 providences, and return unto us our Judges as at the first, and our Counsellours as at the beginning, with the abundance of the blessings of peace that Judge-  
 ment may run down our streets, and righteousnesse as a mighty stream. And we humbly desire the two great Pillars of the Land *Magistry* and *Ministry*  
 may be asserted and encouraged: in order unto which, we humbly present to your Crave and serious Considerations;

First, the Priviledges of the Gospel which we do enjoy at this day in the faithfull preaching & dispensing of Gods holy Word and Sacraments, together  
 with the labours of so many of his faithfull servants in the Ministry, and the libertie of these sacred Ordinances being the best and choicest of our National  
 blessings; in respect of which, we may well say (with holy David) *God hath not dealt so with any Nation:* which with thankfulness we desire to acknow-  
 ledge as a great mercy to this Land: And should the Lord, remove his Candlestick out of his place (as we have just cause to fear he will, unless we do  
 repent.) Then may we indeed complain with *Phineas* his Wife, *the glory is departed from our Israel,* and a dark and dismal night of black and gloomy  
 Ignorance, Error and Prophanenesse will invelope our valley of vision. And to th'end that this choice Blessing (which we account more precious then  
 our lives) may be conveyed to Posterity. We most humbly desire the Ministry may be countenanced and encouraged, the Universities upheld and  
 maintained, which have nursed many famous Preachers for piety and learning in this and former ages, and your Authority used for the terrour of evil  
 doers, but the praise of them that doe well.

Secondly, we esteeme and assert as our undoubted birth right, the freedome and priviledges of our Parliaments, as being the great Charter of the peo-  
 ple of England, which we account equally dear with our lives, in the enjoyment of which we yet hope under G O D to see a happy and lasting settlement  
 both in Church and State. Therefore we most humbly desire that a new election may be made, or else that those worthy Gentlemen chosen to serve  
 as members in the late free Parliament, may be restored to their priviledges, and sit without disturbance or force from the Army. That they may consi-  
 der in this evilt time, what *England, Scotland* and *Ireland* ought to doe, which (with submission to your Grave judgements) we humbly conceive to be  
 the most probable means under G O D to establish the true Protestant Religion, reform the Lawes, secure our Liberties and preserve our lives and out-  
 ward concernments, to promote Learning, and encourage Virtue, whereby peace with our neighbour Nations may be renewed and established, the Ar-  
 my satisfied, their Arrears paid, and Trading restored. In all which, most Grave and worthy Senatours, your own concernments (as well as ours) are so  
 deeply engaged, that we perswade our selves you will be instrumentall to further our desires, by all peaceable and lawfull means, and we hope it will put  
 an end to our divisions, which (if G O D in mercy prevent not) may soon break out into another civil War, and render us as a prey to a forreign enemy,  
 For a Kingdome divided against it self cannot stand.

*Now we leave it unto you our most grave and worthy Senatours, duely to consider if you part with these our great National blessings, whether you will not  
 discover a palpable breach of trust, and leave your names for a reproach to the generations following, who will in the ages to come rise up and call you bles-  
 sed, if you be carefull to preserve them now, and convey them to Posterity: And now We beseech the Lord to strengthen both your hearts and hands;  
 and give you wisdom from on high to direct you in all your Consultations, as may be most for the honour of God, the peace of his Church throughout  
 the World, and the settlement, safety, and happinesse of these poor Nations; And by his assistance we resolve to stand by you and with you to the utmost  
 hazard of our lives and all that is dear unto us, to promote the same.*

Munday 5. December.

This day the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council being assembled, the fore-recited Petition was presented by several young  
 men and Apprentices, in the behalf of themselves and several thousands which have subscribed the same; the which being received,  
 was ordered to be read, and thereupon a Committee chosen to consider thereof, and to give their speedy report unto the next Court  
 concerning the same.

*At the same Court it was likewise Ordered, that the Lord General Fleetwood should be desired to  
 draw off the Souldiers unto their severall quarters; it being then also Ordered that every Common Coun-  
 cil man in his severall precinct, should give notice to the House-keepers within the same, that they should  
 keep their Servants and Apprentices at home, thereby to preserve the peace of the City.*

Dec. 1659